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Experiments with various anæsthetics and narcotics show that these suspend the activities of nerve cells to such an extent that in deep anæsthesia, electrical stimulation produces no rise in brain temperature. Elective action of stimulating drugs on the different tissues is well shown by the injection of cocaine, ten centigrams of the hydrochlorate causing a rise in brain temperature of  $0^{\circ}.36$  C., no change being observed in either muscles or rectum. The effect of cocaine upon the brain is rendered more conspicuous by combination with curare. In a deeply curarized dog, the temperature of the whole body was observed to rise  $4^{\circ}$ , from  $37^{\circ}$  to  $41^{\circ}$  C., within a half hour after the injection of the cocaine. That the effect upon the brain caused this rise is shown by the brain temperature being  $0^{\circ}.2$  C. above that of the rectum during the time. The experiments are of special interest as indicating active chemical changes within the brain.

*The Changes in the Optic Tracts and Chiasma in a Case of Unilateral Optic Atrophy.* WILLIAMSON, R. T. AND M. R. C. P. (LOND.) Brain, Part LVIII. p. 230. 1892.

Hannah T., age 56. Complete loss of vision R. eye; atrophy of R. optic disc. Left eye and L. field of vision, normal. Sudden onset of blindness in R. eye after an attack of rheumatism, four years previous to death. Findings agree in the main with those, for similar cases, recorded by Purtschner and v. Gudden. The optic nerve of right side was much shrunken, and contained almost no healthy fibers. Left optic nerve was normal. In the chiasma, the degenerated optic nerve fibers were found to pass to the inferior surface of the opposite side. In the optic tracts, an area of degeneration could be plainly seen occupying the central area of the right side (uncrossed fibers). The left optic tract was much shrunken, and showed degeneration chiefly in the inner half of the inferior surface. Indications of degeneration extended also to the outer half of the inferior surface and to the outer surface. Hence uncrossed fibers occupy the central portion of the optic tract; while crossed fibers, with slight modification of Purtschner's statement, lie along the periphery of the tract. Microscopical examination was made by Weigert's method. A series of eleven well selected drawings add great clearness to the description.

I.—*Il cervello; nuovi studi di fisiologia normale e pathologica.* LUIGI, LUCIANI. Firenze, 1891.

II.—*Sull' origine e decorso dei peduncoli cerebellari e sui loro rapporti cogli altri centri nervosi.* MARCHI, VITT. Firenze, 1891.

Of the above papers, the first deals with the physiology, the second with the anatomical connections of the cerebellum, as shown by degenerations resulting from partial or entire extirpation.

Dogs and monkeys were employed for the experiments. The cerebellum was removed, wholly or in part, under narcosis produced in dogs by hypodermic injection of morphia and chloral (morphia 2.5 centigram, chloral 1 gram), and in monkeys by morphia and chloroform.

The principal operations studied were: *Extirpation of the middle lobe of the cerebellum; extirpation of the whole cerebellum; extirpation of one-half of the cerebellum.* This latter was done by dividing the vermis in the median plane by means of a Græf's knife.

Operations upon the cerebellum at best are difficult, great care being necessary to avoid excessive hemorrhage and the injury to